

EDUCATION

“Education is the single most important investment we can make for our children, our state, our economy and our future.”



Governor Gregoire’s education budget is based on the recommendations of Washington Learns, and will bring fundamental changes in education delivery, expectations and results. She is making significant investments to transform the Washington education system, from early learning through middle school, high school, college and workforce training.

The changes that Governor Gregoire proposes are comprehensive—each component enhances the power of every other component. She is making a 25

percent increase in per student spending. She is changing the education system so that our investments bring better results. She knows that the best way to grow our economy and secure a bright future for all students is to make smart, strategic, responsible and accountable investments in education.

MAKING CHANGES FAMILIES CAN COUNT ON

EARLY LEARNING

Research into the brain development of young children tells us that children are born learning and the first years build the foundation for future learning. Governor Gregoire knows from experience that parents are their children's first and best teacher, so she will help parents by providing information, support, a commitment to high-quality child care and a variety of early education experiences. By investing now in quality early education, we will all benefit later as more students graduate from high school, get and keep good jobs and earn higher wages.

Governor Gregoire's Budget for Early Learning:

**Provides
high-quality
learning
experiences**

Expands our pre-kindergarten program. Serves an additional 2,000 children in the Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP). Improves quality with higher teacher pay and increased family support, promoting stability for children in preschool, and better preparing young children for success in school and in life. *\$27 million GF-State*

Rates child care quality on a five-star scale. Rates state-subsidized child care providers on a five-star scale based on how well they provide early learning experiences to children. This voluntary quality rating system will provide better information to parents to help guide their choices, and will give child care providers an incentive to continuously improve the services they offer. As a child care provider improves its quality rating, the provider will receive higher reimbursement payments for state subsidized children in care. *\$9.3 million GF-State*

**Supports parents and
caregivers**

Provides information for parents and families. Offers culturally appropriate information to parents, family, friends and other caregivers. For those who choose to participate, other parent and caregiver support programs will be available, such as play and learn groups where parents can learn from each other while children play. *\$4.8 million GF-State*

Pays child care providers fairly. Increases the rates paid by the state for children in subsidized care by 10 percent, through a new collective bargaining agreement. Provides equity by allowing the same rate increase for child care workers and child care centers. Also supports health care benefits to child care workers, supplemental payments for infant care and non-standard hours, and training in the subsidy program. *\$85.8 million GF-State*

K-12: ELEMENTARY, MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOLS

Our students deserve better training, and we need to provide the tools and opportunities that prepare them for good jobs in the new economy. Governor Gregoire knows that we need to change the system, fix the curriculum and establish international standards. With Governor Gregoire's leadership, we will redesign our education system, beginning with math and science, so that our students can successfully compete with students in other states and nations.

At \$809 million, Governor Gregoire is proposing the largest K-12 school construction budget in Washington history. Improved classroom space, along with new and better regional skill centers and a youth academy for at-risk teens, will ensure that every student has room to learn.

Governor Gregoire's Budget for K-12:

Improves math and science **Increases student achievement in math and science.** Reduces class size to 25 students for each teacher. Recruits 750 more math and science teachers. Provides additional time for teacher training and coaching assistance. Aligns curriculum and testing to international standards. Provides loan forgiveness programs and specialized preparation programs for professionals with math and science expertise. This high-quality, rigorous, consistent math and science program will ensure that we teach to an internationally recognized curriculum, test to the concepts that we teach, and prepare students to succeed. *\$107.4 million GF-State, \$46.8 million Education Legacy Trust Account-State*

Expands hands-on science learning. Expands the Leadership and Assistance for Science Education Reform (LASER) program into 1,000 additional K-8 classrooms across the state. LASER is a public-private partnership that provides complete toolkits for hands-on science projects, with teacher training, research-based models for learning and community support. *\$12.1 million GF-State*

Continues to reduce class sizes. Reaches the intended \$450 per student funding for Initiative 728 in the 2007-08 school year and increases per student funding by inflation in subsequent years. School districts are expected to prioritize this funding for class size reductions in grades K-3. *\$139.0 million Student Achievement Fund-State*

Focuses on learners **Personalizes learning in the early years.** Demonstration projects will use best practices based on developmental research to provide students in kindergarten through third grade with varied experiences to develop their learning skills in reading, math, science, art, social studies and foreign languages. Students will be grouped based on their abilities and interests rather than their age, and smaller learning groups will allow more individualized instruction and attention. *\$9.5 million Education Legacy Trust Account-State*

Expands all-day kindergarten. Phases in voluntary all-day kindergarten, focusing first on schools with high-poverty levels in order to serve the students who will benefit most from additional learning time and attention. Students who attend all-day kindergarten are more likely to read at grade level, have good attendance and do well in school. *\$41.6 million GF-State*

Supports special education. Offers more opportunities for students with special needs, applying learning experiences informed by data and best practices and delivered by skilled teachers and paraprofessionals. *\$63.4 million GF-State*

Helps struggling students pass the WASL. Provides a variety of intensive learning options, test preparation and tutoring to students who have been unsuccessful on one or more of the 10th grade WASL tests in reading, writing and math. Extends assistance through 12th grade. *\$50 million GF-State*

Coordinates instruction for English-language learners. Creates pilot programs to evaluate emerging best practices and provide time for bilingual education teachers and classroom teachers to coordinate. Identifies essential competencies that all teachers need to assist English-language learners. *\$880,000 GF-State, \$1.3 million Education Legacy Trust Fund*

Keeps students healthy. Expands the reduced-price student breakfast program to include more low-income students. Nutritious breakfasts improve students' overall health and their ability to succeed in school. *\$1.5 million GF-State*

Provides world-class teachers and leaders

Rewards outstanding teachers. Develops a new performance-based professional educator salary system. As an initial step toward this new system, teachers who earn certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards will receive a 10 percent raise for achieving this high standard, plus another salary increase for teaching in schools with students needing the most help, and an additional increase if they are certified in math or science. *\$7.5 million GF-State*

Raises teacher pay and provides more equity between school districts. Increases salaries for teachers and other K-12 staff increases by 3.4 percent in the 2007-08 school year and 2.6 percent in the 2008-09 school year, consistent with Initiative 732. Reduces inequities between school districts by providing salary increases to those districts that are far below the top state salary allocations for teachers, administrators and classified K-12 staff. *\$409.6 million GF-State*

Creates professional licensure and development systems. Designs a single teacher assessment to assure that teachers meet preparation expectations. Recognizes that top teachers and school leaders play a vital role in school success with a public-private partnership for a new principal and superintendent leadership development program. *\$1.7 million GF-State*

Holds schools accountable

Tracks educational accomplishment and financial security. Develops an accountability system for K-12 that measures progress and provides assistance to school districts to meet high expectations. Collects data for better review of budget and program implementation, and monitors the long-term financial health of school districts. *\$1.8 million GF-State*

Develops a new transportation funding formula. Follows the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee's recommendation with an evaluation by the Office of Financial Management to develop a new transportation funding formula. *\$280,000 GF-State*

Benchmarks progress toward world-class education. Uses the Global Challenge States, the eight states ranked highest for their potential to compete in the global economy, as a benchmark for competitive compensation for teachers and faculty, per-student funding and student achievement outcomes.

Global Challenge States: How Washington Measures Up

Children Enrolled in Preschool	K-12 Expenditure per Student	K-12 Student-Teacher Ratio
1 Virginia	1 New Jersey	1 Virginia
2 New Jersey	2 Connecticut	2 New Jersey
3 Connecticut	3 Massachusetts	3 Connecticut
4 Massachusetts	4 Maryland	4 Massachusetts
5 Maryland	5 Virginia	5 Maryland
6 California	6 Colorado	6 Colorado
7 Colorado	7 WASHINGTON	7 WASHINGTON
LAST WASHINGTON	8 California	8 California

HIGHER EDUCATION: COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

Higher education trains the workers that will get the highest paying jobs. Instead of exporting work and importing workers, Governor Gregoire will make sure that Washington students are well-trained with the skills that are in high-demand by local employers.

Governor Gregoire's Budget for Higher Education:

Prepares people for good jobs in Washington	Enrolls more students in high-demand programs. Provides more qualified workers in high-demand fields, such as engineering, math and science education, nursing and other health care occupations. Provides more than 3,300 new high-demand enrollment slots in colleges and universities, including new spaces in apprenticeship programs and Integrated Basic Education Skills and Training programs. Expands the UW Schools of Medicine and Dentistry and the WSU Nursing School to provide more doctors, dentists and nurses to the inland Northwest. <i>\$10.4 million GF-State, \$49.7 million Education Legacy Trust Account-State</i>
	Establishes the GET Ready for Math and Science Scholarship. Encourages middle and high school students to perform well in math and science and pursue high-demand, math- and science-related degrees in college. Purchases Guaranteed Education Tuition (GET) shares through a public-private partnership to provide four-year college scholarships to 500 students each year, beginning with the class of 2010. <i>\$14 million Education Legacy Trust Account-State, \$14 million raised by the College Success Foundation</i>
	Creates the Regional Opportunity Grants program. Trains low- and middle-income adults to prepare them for jobs that local employers need to fill immediately. Awards grants covering community and technical college tuition, books and fees for up to 45 credits to 1,600 adults. Participants will earn credentials or certificates in occupations determined by local industry to need more skilled employees. <i>\$5 million GF-State</i>
Makes college tuition affordable and predictable	Freezes tuition at Community and Technical Colleges. Keeps our 34 community and technical colleges affordable, with no increases in tuition or fees for the next two years. <i>\$19.7 million GF-State</i>
	Expands eligibility for State Need Grants. Maintains financial aid for all students whose families earn up to 65 percent of Washington median family income (\$45,000 for a family of four) and expands eligibility to students taking only one class per term. <i>\$28.8 million Education Legacy Trust Account-State</i>
	Caps tuition increases at colleges and universities. Limits annual tuition increases to no more than 5 percent at regional schools and no more than 7 percent at research universities, to give students and families more predictability as they make plans for college. <i>No extra cost</i>
	Increases access to colleges and universities. Makes room for over 5,000 new students in general enrollments at two- and four-year institutions. <i>\$48.7 million Education Legacy Trust Account-State</i>

- Expands opportunities** **Expands research.** Increases research capacity for global health at the University of Washington, and for agriculture and alternative fuels at Washington State University. This academic research provides expertise to create and test new products with commercial applications. *\$14.3 million GF-State*
- Expands mentoring for low-income and “first generation” college students.** Expands proven programs that provide academic assistance, mentoring and career planning for low-income and first generation students during middle and high school, and the first years of college. These programs greatly increase the return on the state’s investment in enrollments, financial aid and scholarships. *\$2.5 million GF-State, \$7 million Education Legacy Trust Account-State*
- Establishes Washington Learns Scholarships.** Provides college scholarships to low-income students and students from families in which neither parent completed a baccalaureate degree. Students will be notified in the 7th grade that if they graduate from high school with at least a “C” average, they will be eligible for financial aid to cover tuition, books and fees for up to four years. Begins purchasing Guaranteed Education Tuition (GET) shares now for the first class of Washington Learns Scholars. *\$5 million Education Legacy Trust Account-State*
- Addresses next steps for the Snohomish-Island-Skagit County region.** Develops a master business plan and site selection process to address unmet baccalaureate needs in the region. *\$2 million Capital*
- Raises faculty pay and improves equity.** Provides salary increases and other benefits to faculty and staff at community and technical colleges and regional and research universities. Narrows the gap between full- and part-time faculty pay in community and technical colleges. *\$212.3 million GF-State, \$175.7 million other funds*

Global Challenge States: How Washington Measures Up

Associates Degrees per 1,000 Population	Bachelor’s Degrees per 1,000 Population	Advanced Degrees per 1,000 Population
FIRST WASHINGTON	1 Massachusetts	1 Massachusetts
2 California	2 Connecticut	2 Connecticut
3 Colorado	3 Colorado	3 Maryland
4 Virginia	4 Virginia	4 Colorado
5 New Jersey	5 Maryland	5 Virginia
6 Massachusetts	6 WASHINGTON	6 New Jersey
7 Maryland	7 New Jersey	7 California
8 Connecticut	8 California	LAST WASHINGTON